

Abstract

Title of the thesis: *How to become bilingual : Process of acquisition of second language at different ages*

This bachelor thesis deals with the development of bilingualism. The objective of this work is to show how we become bilingual at different ages and prove that the process of learning a second language is not the same at every age of life. The work builds the solution on the theories of linguists and on the practical research which is presented in the form of the case studies and analysis of language speech. The first chapter of the work is focused on the definition of bilingualism and the second one is about the types of this phenomenon. The third chapter presents the process of language acquisition. Individual parts of this chapter deal with the process of language acquisition of the mother tongue by monolingual children, further the simultaneous acquisition of two languages from birth, the process of acquisition by the children who integrate a second language between 3 – 6 years and finally the acquisition of a second language by the persons after 6 years. The fourth chapter is dedicated to the phenomena which are associated with the bilingualism. The last one presents the case studies of three types of bilingualism which are defined by age in the theoretical part. The studies are compared with the theory presented in the previous chapters.

Keywords: bilingualism, acquisition of speech, bilingual education, acquisition of a second language, precocious simultaneous bilingualism, precocious successive bilingualism, critical period, code switching